

### **Amendments to the Abstract**

Please amend the abstract found in page 32, lines 3-20, as follows (eliminated text has a strikethrough; added text is underlined) :

"The present invention is directed toward a system for monitoring a region of a person to determine a plurality of physiological characteristics, including blood oxygenation levels, blood gases, respiratory rates, and pulse rates. The monitored region includes at least a portion of a dermal layer extending over anywhere on the chin, including at least one of the subject's mandible, symphysis, mental protuberance, or incisive fossa. The system ~~comprises~~ has a sensor having at least one light emitting source and at least one detector. Preferably, the sensor is positioned on the chin region being monitored and is at least partially suction-secured to the chin region ~~being monitored by a securing means.~~ ~~Optional~~y, the securing means comprises a strap that is adjustable and in physical communication with the housing. In one embodiment, the strap is attached to an apparatus and the apparatus is capable of being secured to a head of the subject. The apparatus can be attached to a helmet and used for at least one of a military, sporting, construction, security, policing, or firefighting application."